

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: REPORT TO NATO MINISTERS ON MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION  
(MED REPORT)

REF: A. STATE 253439

B. USNATO 6291

NAC CONSIDERED MED REPORT ON NOVEMBER 20 WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS:

1. US AMENDMENTS TO PARA 16 (AS PROPOSED IN PARA 2 REF A) APPROVED  
AND ADOPTED.

2. LOGAN (UK) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HAD TWO GENERAL COMMENTS.  
CONCERNING PARAS 7,8 AND 9 LONDON THOUGHT REPORT GAVE EXCLUSIVE  
ATTENTION TO SIVIET NAVAL PRESENCE WITHOUT PROPER MENTION OF  
SIVIET AIR PRESENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA. REGARDING REPORTS  
COMMENTS ON CONSEQUENCES OF POSSIBLE REPOENING OF SUEZ CANAL,  
LONDON THOUGHT REPORT FAILED TO TAKE SUFFICIENT NOTICE OF SOVIET  
NAVAL PRESENCE IN NORTHWESTERN INDIAN OCEAN AREA AND HOW THIS  
MIGHT INTERRELATE WITH SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN PRESENCE ONCE  
CANAL IS OPENED. SYG LUNS POINTED TO PARA 31 OF REPORT WHICH SAYS  
"CANAL WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1967,  
THE CAPABILITY FOR SIGNIFICANTLY AND RAPIDLY REINFORCING THERE NAVAL  
STRENGTH IN THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM THEIR MEDITERRANEAN AND BALCK  
SEA NAVAL FORCE, AND VICE-VERSA." LOGAN NOTED THESE WORDS BUT  
SECRET

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SAID CONSEQUENCES TO THE ALLIANCE OF BOTH THE SOVIET BUILDUP IN THE  
INDIAN OCEAN AND PROSPECTIVE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL DESERVED  
FURTHER STUDY IN NATO HEADQUARTERS, PERHAPS AT THE SPC OR  
POLAD LEVELS. CATALANO (ITALY) SUPPORTED LOGAN'S COMMENTS ON THE SUEZ

SURPRISINGLY, DE ROSE (FRANCE) ALSO INTERVENED TO SUPPORT THE UK SUGGESTION. DE ROSE NOTED THAT WHILE INDIAN OCEAN WAS NOT IN THE TREATY AREA, REOPENING OF CANAL WOULD PUT IT AT "THE BACK DOOR" OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

3. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) PRAISED THE MED REPORT AND EXPRESSED PARTICULAR PLEASURE THAT THE AD HOC DRAFTING GROUP HAD MANAGED TO CONCENTRATE ON SOVIET PENETRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH LESS EFFORT THAN USUAL DEVOTED TO MATERIAL THAT OVERLAPPED WORK OF THE NATO MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS. HARTOGH SUGGESTED PARA 14 BE AMENDED TO STRIKE THE WORK "UNCONFIRMED." HE SAID NETHERLANDS NOW HAS CONFIRMATION OF SOVIET DELIVERIES OF MIG 23 FLOGGER AIRCRAFT TO LIBYA.

4. MENZIES (CANADA) PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING HE THOUGHT THE REPORT WAS EXCELLENT. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO CRITICIZE IT ON FOUR COUNTS. (A) OTTAWA FINDS PARA 6 CONTAINS MATERIAL THAT MORE PROPERLY BELONGED IN THE NATO MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS REPORT. HE SAID MED REPORT DRAFTING GROUP IN THE FUTURE SHOULD GIVE MORE EMPHASIS TO ATTITUDES OF THE SOVIET UNION. (B) SIMILARY, THE LONG SECTION ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DOES NOT SEEM TO THE CANADIANS TO HAVE SUFFICIENT CONCENTRATION ON THE SOVIET PENETRATION ANGLE. (C) CONCERNING PARA 27, MENZIES THOUGHT THE INFORMATION WAS STALE AND THE PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE UPDATED WHEN THE REPORT IS REVISED. (D) FINALLY, HE NTMRZAAQ CBCICBPEW GOVERNMENTS NOW IN PLACE IN BOTH ATHENS AND ANKARA, THE REPORT OUGHT TO MENTION THE CYPRUS SITUATION AND SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD IT.

5. LUNS RESPONDED SAYING MENZIES EARLIER POINTS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN THE REPORT IS REVISED BUT SINCE HE, THE SYG, IN CONNECTION WITH HIS WATCHING BRIEF ON CYPRUS, WOULD BE REPORTING TO MINISTERS NEXT MONTH ON CYPRUS, HE DID NOT THINK IT NECESSARY FOR THE MED REPORT TO DISCUSS CYPRUS.

6. THEODOROPoulos (GREECE) ALSO SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF A SPECIAL SECRET

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STUDY ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF REOPENING SUEZ CANAL AND CAUTIONED THAT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL SHIPPING SHOULD ALSO BE STUDIED ALONG WITH MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

7. LUNS CONCLUDED SAYING THE MEDREPORT WILL BE REVISED IN ACCORD WITH THE PERMREPS COMMENTS, AND WILL BE RESUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL UNDER THE SILENCE PROCEDURE.

8. COMMENT: SUCH REVISION WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE A BRIEF MEETING OF EITHER THE SPC OR POLADS FOR WHICH MISSION DOES NOT REQUIRE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. END COMMENT.  
MCAULIFFE.

SECRET

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